February 1, 2013

PSYCHOACTIVE MEDICATION AND CHEMICAL RESTRAINT PROVIDER BULLETIN FAQS

Provider Questions regarding Standards of Practice Guidance on the Use of PRN Psychoactive Medications and Chemical Restraints

Question: Can my staff still give PRN psychotropic medications?

Answer: Yes. Staff can still assist with PRN psychotropic medications as long as they have a current and valid Medication Assistance Certificate, and they have been appropriately trained on, and deemed competent with the Participant's plan of care.

Question: On occasion my staff will administer what can be considered a psychotropic medication for the purpose of seizure control; will my staff be required to follow all the steps required in the Standards of Practice Guidance for the use of PRN Psychotropic Medications?

Answer: No, in this instance the Standards do not apply. Even though the medication you may be using has psychoactive properties, it was not prescribed with psychoactive intent. However, staff will still need to follow the guidelines that apply to all PRN medications.

Question: I currently have a client with an order for a PRN psychotropic medication but the order is not specific to the exact behaviors for which it is to be administered, it simply states that it should be given for "behaviors". Is this sufficient, and, if not, what do I need to do?

Answer: All orders for PRN psychotropic medications need to specify regarding certain important parameters including: dosage, route, how often it can be given, and the circumstance for which it will be given. The order must be specific as to the exact behaviors that must be exhibited for the medication to be administered. Should the order be unclear in any respect, the order will need to be clarified by the prescribing entity before the PRN is given.

Question: The bulletin states that only licensed personnel can administer a chemical restraint. What is meant by licensed personnel, and does this include staff that has a Medication Assistance certificate? **Answer:** Chemical restraints can only be performed by those individuals that hold a current and valid license issued by the State of Wyoming and must be within their scope of practice. Licensure may include the following: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), Registered Nurse (RN), and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Question: Do I need to change my policies to reflect the contents of the bulletin?

Answer: This answer may be either yes or no based on the content of your current policies. Your policies will need to reflect the requirements outlined in the bulletin. Please review your current Medication Assistance policies to ensure they meet the requirements outlined in the PRN Psychotropic Medication Standards, and your Restraint policy, if applicable, to ensure it meets the requirements of the Chemical Restraint standards.